



Press Release

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USDA Surveys to Provide Insight on 2011 Agriculture Outlook

With the 2011 growing season now in full swing, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend the first two weeks of June surveying thousands of farmers across Idaho to get a clear indication of the production and supply of major commodities for the year. The information provided will be compiled into one publicly accessible report and maintain confidentiality of individual farmer information.

"In March, U.S. farmers reported that they have planted or intend to plant more acres of corn, wheat and cotton this crop season and fewer acres of soybeans. Now with most of the crop actually in the ground, we are reaching out to producers to find out what they actually planted," said Vince Matthews, Director of the NASS Idaho Field Office.

Through two major mid-year surveys, the June Agricultural Survey and the June Area Survey, NASS will gather data on what crops have been planted and what commodities are in storage. This information will provide a comprehensive picture of how things are shaping up in 2011 for the U.S. agriculture industry.

"For the agricultural survey, we contact producers by mail, phone or personal visit. We ask them to provide information on their total acreage, acres planted to specific commodities – including biotech varieties, and quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm," said Matthews.

"For the area survey, we visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of any farm or ranch on that land. We collect information on crop acreage – including biotech crops, as well as grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, land values, and value of sales."

This information is a critical component of several key national reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 30. Survey data also contribute to NASS's monthly and annual *Crop Production* reports and various other crop and livestock-related publications, including USDA's *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

"Especially in these challenging economic times, farmers and the rest of the agricultural industry need timely, accurate data on the current state of U.S. agricultural production," Matthews said. "The information collected through our mid-year surveys can help producers, suppliers, traders, buyers, export customers and others make sound and informed business decisions."

For more information, visit www.nass.usda.gov or call the NASS Idaho Field Office at 800-691-9987.

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